

Kuna School District

Inspiring each student to become a lifelong learner and a contributing, responsible citizen.



December 5, 2013

Dear KSD Parents, Students and Families,

This morning bus #11 was involved in an accident at the intersection of Deer Flat and Happy Valley. Four students and a bus driver were injured in the accident, and one student passed away at the scene. Idaho State Police is in the process of investigating the accident, and we do not have any more facts at this time.

My heart goes out to the many students, families, and staff that have been impacted by this accident. We have had a tremendous outpouring of support today from our district counselors, social workers and administrators, from the Ada County Sheriff's Office, and from local school districts.

All of our schools have implemented a plan for responding to this sad event and have focused on helping our students maintain regular learning and every day activities. Teachers were provided resources for how to talk about this situation with their students, and we have included the information in this letter. All of our busses will have student services personnel riding along with students today so that if students are worried or have questions, they will have an adult they can talk to on their ride home.

Administrators and supervisors will be meeting with me today to review today's plan and to plan for the days ahead. Counselors and social workers will be available to students who need special attention and support. We also will have counselors available to staff.

Students and staff will experience a variety of emotions and responses to today's events. The most important thing we can do is to be supportive and encourage an open expression of feelings. My team will maintain as normal a routine and structure as the situation allows, and we encourage you to do the same.

If your child or family needs some assistance, please contact your school, and we will do everything we can to assist you. If you would like to help, Melanie DeLashmutt is coordinating volunteer efforts and can be reached at mdelashmutt@kunaschools.org.

We know you will join us in our concern and sympathy for the many people impacted by today's tragedy.

In service,

Wendy Johnson
Superintendent

711 E. Porter Rd., Kuna, Idaho 83634

Phone: (208)922-1000

FAX: (208)922-5646

Wendy Johnson
Superintendent

Devan Delashmutt
Assistant Superintendent

Arnette Johnson
Administrator of Student Services

Information Shared with Teachers and Support Staff Today:

Bus 11 Accident Fact Sheet for Staff to Share with Students as Appropriate

If students are talking about the bus accident this morning, the following is a list of some immediate facts that can be shared.

What Happened?

- Bus 11 was in an accident with semi-truck this morning on Deer Flat and Happy Valley Rd. this morning.

Who Was Involved?

- Four students and the bus driver were injured in the accident.
 - Two of the students and the bus driver were treated and released this morning.
 - Two students are currently being treated for their injuries at St. Alphonsus in Boise. Both of the students are alert and awake and are being taken care of by very good doctors. The families of these students are being supported by school and police staff.
- One student, a 6th grader at CP, was killed in the accident. His family is being taken care of by school district staff, the police and his church.
- We can't share the information of the names of the students at this time because we want to protect the privacy of the families involved. When we know more information, we will share it with you as is appropriate.

How Can You Help?

Students can write letters of support to the students who are healing from their injuries. Students can also write letters of support to the family who is grieving over the loss of their child. Letters can be delivered to the office and will be given to the families.

Resources to Support Your Classroom

Counselors and Social Workers from around the district are being made available to support teachers, families and students. Surrounding school districts and the Ada County Sheriff are also available to help.

A counselor from Boise Counseling put together the following resource for families and schools to access:

<http://boisecounseling.blogspot.com/2013/12/6-tips-for-talking-to-your-child-about.html>

Children may also be worried about riding the bus home after school today. Please reassure them that riding the bus will be ok. School busses are the safest mode of transportation. We plan to have counselors and support staff on all our buses to help students who may be worried or concerned.

If you are noticing a student who is student, particularly a student who may have witnessed in the accident, please notify your school administration immediately. Support from victim witness coordinators and counselors is available to students and families.